

students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

My grandfather, Colonel Lee Powell, served in the Air Force for a total of thirty years, garnering experience at many different bases throughout the United States and abroad, including England and Vietnam. His main area of interest and expertise in the Air Force was contract administration, although he completed other assignments as well, such as Armed Forces Courier Officer and Missile Launch Officer. His engineering background assisted him throughout his career. He also enjoyed traveling, an interest that the Air Force helped facilitate, as he traveled extensively throughout Europe and Africa, and also visited other places such as Australia and Thailand. He worked his way up through the ranks, starting through the ROTC program at his university, and then finally achieving the rank of Colonel. When asked what impact his military service had on his views of war and conflict, Colonel Powell responded that his Vietnam and other experiences have led him to believe that the United States should not again involve itself in the civil wars of other countries.—Mitchell Powell

HONORING THE WESTFIELD, NJ AREA YMCA BLACK ACHIEVERS' PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Westfield, NJ Area YMCA Black Achievers Program. I applaud

the participants for their achievements and the staff, mentors, and Westfield, NJ Area YMCA Black Achievers Committee for their continuing commitment as role models in our community.

The Black Achievers Program began in the 1960s at the Harlem YMCA with the mission of helping youth set and achieve educational and life-long goals. The program expanded nationally, and in 1998, the Westfield, NJ Area YMCA adopted it. The Program's goal is to prepare youth participants in grades five through twelve to become Black Achievers in their future careers by building their character and skills, while providing positive mentoring relationships with caring Adult Achievers.

The thirty-seven students who are participants in the 2009–2010 school year are: Zayna Allen, Jamirah Barden, Steven Barden, Bria Barnes, Victoria Carden, Imani Coston, Ashley Edwards, Phylcia Flagg, Joshua Forehand, Alexis Givens, Adam Harley, Aneyjah Harris, Jon'ae Jackson, Todd Jamison, Jr., Cesar Lopez, Jazmine Mayer, Jonathan Mayer, Maya McLeod, Cameron Mitchell, Chelci Mitchell, Aunye McCummings, Kevin Monroe, Jr., Imani Mutyanda, Munashee Mutyanda, Jason Nutt, Fredrick A. Parsons, Jameka Parsons, Ne'andrea Paulevra, Sean Paulevra, Tamar Richardson, Dwayne Scott, Jr., Jeffery Scott, Ashley Simmons, Isaiah Smith, Kwame Thompson Haynes, Diana Williams and Brianna Whitehead.

These thirty-seven individuals embody the program's core values. They have acquired the leadership skills and self-awareness needed to attain success in any endeavor they choose to pursue.

Every year, the Connell Company, based in Berkeley Heights, NJ, generously sponsors the scholarship program and provides other vital support to the Program. Their generosity has supported the Program since its inception in 1998.

The staff members dedicated to the program and its students are: Senior Director of Childcare, Camp and Teen Services Susan Morton, Coordinator Tarajee W. Russell, Assistant Coordinator Tania Mayer, Tutor Romina Cahiwat, and Alumni Volunteer Jasmine C. Farmer. These individuals, as well as the volunteers on the Black Achievers Committee of the Westfield, NJ Area YMCA Board have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the program. The Westfield YMCA's Chief Executive Officer Mark Elsasser, Chief Operating Officer Paula Ehoff, Communications/Development Director Bonnie Cohen, YMCA Board chairman Stephen Murphy and the rest of the staff are deeply committed to the success of the Program. Lastly, the Black Achievers Committee Chairman Carlton Blake and the entire Black Achievers Committee should be acknowledged for the tremendous effort and dedication they put forth to keep the Black Achievers Program running.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the Westfield, NJ Area YMCA Black Achievers Program for encouraging students to develop their fullest potential in spirit, mind, and body. I urge them to continue to raise the academic standards of our young people and inspire them to reach all of their goals. I congratulate the Westfield, NJ Area YMCA, the Black Achievers' Program Committee, the Program and its staff and participants on their accomplishments and I thank them for their commitment to their community and I thank them for their commitment to their community.

CONNOR RANDALL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Connor Randall who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Connor Randall is a 12th grader at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Connor Randall is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Connor Randall for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

HONORING WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART DESIGN AND FILM ON 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Watkins College of Art, Design and Film as they celebrate their 125th anniversary.

What began as a vision to offer art education to the Mid-South community, came into being 125 years ago, emerging today as Watkins College of Art, Design and Film. Name-sake of entrepreneur and philanthropist Samuel Watkins, Watkins College opened its doors in 1885 as Nashville Art Association and began to offer instruction in visual arts. Always one step ahead of the cultural needs of the 20th century, the school assisted immigrants in becoming active members of society, gave women opportunities to enter the workplace with confidence and skill, and offered returning servicemen completion of their high school degrees.

With approval from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission in 1977, Watkins became a full college offering associate degrees in fine art and interior design. Adding the Watkins Film School in 1997, and Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in photography, graphic design and fine art in 2007, Watkins College of Art, Design and Film continues to lead the way in artistic movements and education.

Watkins College offers hands-on curriculum, academic roots, and award-winning faculty. Alumni of Watkins College of Art, Design and Film go onto successful careers in their fields. Alumni hold LEED certifications, are small business owners, designers of sacred spaces, makers of film, leaders in their communities, and protectors of art. I am proud of my association with Watkins College and look forward to the many successes of the next 125 years.

I congratulate Watkins College on their rich and impactful history and ask my colleges to